

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for managing a computer system, comprising:
 2. a host computer system;
 3. a management sub-system coupled locally to said host computer system, said management sub-system including a processor and memory;
 5. a remote management console capable of communicating remotely with said management sub-system;
 7. wherein said management sub-system is capable of receiving an image of a bootable program from said remote console, and wherein said image is stored in the memory in said management sub-system; and
 10. wherein said host computer system loads said image during its boot cycle, and executes said image as part of its boot cycle.
1. 2. The system of claim 1, wherein said host computer system includes a processor and a host ROM that is programmed to check the management sub-system for bootable images, and wherein said processor accesses said host ROM during its boot cycle.
1. 3. The system of claim 1, wherein said management sub-system comprises a computer card that may be installed within said host computer system.
1. 4. The system of claim 3, wherein said host computer system includes a system bus, and said computer card couples to said system bus.

1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein said system bus comprises a PCI bus.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein said management sub-system includes a network interface
2 that enables said management sub-system to transmit and receive signals via a local area network.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein said management sub-system couples to said remote
2 management console via the local area network.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein said management sub-system includes a modem that
2 enables said management sub-system to transmit and receive signals via a telephone connection,
3 and wherein said management console also includes a modem to facilitate communications with
4 said management sub-system.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote management console includes a console
2 processor and peripheral drives capable of receiving storage medium, and wherein said console
3 processor transfers data loaded in said peripheral drives to said management sub-system.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein said peripheral drives include a floppy drive, and said
2 console processor transfers floppy images to said management sub-system, and said management
3 sub-system stores said floppy image in said memory in said management sub-system.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein said management processor transmits a control signal to
2 said host computer system when a floppy image is stored in said management memory, and
3 wherein said control signal sets a flag in said host computer system.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein said host computer system checks the status of said flag
2 during each boot cycle.

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1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein said host computer system executes the floppy image
2 during its boot cycle if said flag is set.

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1 14. The system of claim 10, wherein said host computer system checks the management sub-
2 system on each boot cycle to determine if a floppy image is present in the management memory.

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1 15. The system of claim 1, wherein said remote management console includes file transfer
2 protocol client software, and said management sub-system includes file transfer protocol server
3 software for supporting the transfer of said image from said remote management console to said
4 management sub-system.

1 16. A system for managing a computer, comprising:
2 a host computer system including a processor and a bus bridge, said bus bridge coupling
3 said processor to a system bus, and said system bus including at least one port for
4 receiving a peripheral device;

5 a management sub-system including a management processor and memory, said
6 management sub-system coupling to said system bus via said port;
7 a management console coupled to said management sub-system via a communications link,
8 said management console including a console processor and one or more peripheral
9 drives, and wherein said management console transfers images from said peripheral
10 drive to said management sub-system via said communications link; and
11 wherein said management sub-system emulates a floppy drive, so that the computer system
12 checks the management sub-system during each boot cycle to determine if said
13 management sub-system includes a bootable image.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein said one or more peripheral drives comprise one or more
2 of a CD-ROM drive, hard drive, and a floppy drive.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein said management processor transmits a control signal to
2 said host computer system when a bootable image is received from said management console.

1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein said management sub-system further comprises a network
2 interface that couples to a local area network.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein said local area network couples to said management
2 console via a telephone line.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein said local area network couples to said management
2 console via the Internet.

1 22. A managed computer system capable of being controlled by a remote management console,
2 said managed computer system comprising:

3 a host processor;

4 a system bus coupled to said processor by a bus bridge;

5 a system memory coupled to said processor;

6 a management sub-system coupled to said system bus, said management sub-system

7 including:

8 a management processor;

9 a memory coupled to said management processor for storing software and data;

10 a network interface for coupling said computer system to said remote management
11 console via a communications link;

12 wherein said management sub-system is capable of receiving an image of a bootable
13 program from said remote console, and wherein said image is stored in the memory in said
14 management sub-system; and

15 wherein said host processor loads said image during its boot cycle, and executes said image
16 as part of its boot cycle.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein said managed computer system includes a host ROM
2 coupled to said host processor, and wherein said processor accesses said host ROM during its boot
3 cycle.

1 24. The system of claim 22, wherein said management sub-system comprises a computer card
2 installed within said managed computer system.

1 25. The system of claim 22, wherein said management processor transmits a control signal to
2 said host computer system when a bootable image is stored in said management memory, and
3 wherein said control signal sets a flag in said host computer system.

1 26. The system of claim 25, wherein said host computer system checks the status of said flag
2 during each boot cycle.

1 27. The system of claim 26, wherein said host processor executes the bootable image stored in
2 said management memory during its boot cycle if said flag is set.

1 28. The system of claim 22, wherein said host processor checks the management sub-system
2 on each boot cycle to determine if a bootable image is present in the management memory.